

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 SS-15 SSO-00 SP-02 PM-04
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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0656

SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE

INFO JCS WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

USNMR SHAPE

USDELMC

USCINCEUR

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFE RAMSTEIN

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

DIRNSA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 4626

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, PFOR, GR, US

SUBJECT: U.S.-GREEK DEFENSE COOPERATION DISCUSSIONS: SOFA,
ARTICLE VII,I

REFS: (A) STATE 112038 (DTG 162051Z MAY 77)

(B) ATHENS 4541 (DTG 141238Z MAY 77)

(C) ATHENS 4460 (DTG 121628Z MAY 77)

1. IN WORKING GROUP MEETING ON MAY 17, SOFA, VII,I WAS AGAIN
ADDRESSED. USING THE RATIONALE CONTAINED IN PARA 1, REFTEL A
WE REITERATED OUR CONCERN ABOUT THE LACK OF A MEANINGFUL MODIFIER
LIMITING THE TYPE OF SERVICES FOR WHICH THE U.S. FORCES WOULD
BE FINANCIALLY RESPONSIBLE. THE GREEKS DISCLAIMED ANY INTENT
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TO DEFINE BROADLY THOSE SERVICES, SCOFFING AT THE IDEA THAT
SOUDA ANNEX C (REFTEL C) WAS INDICATIVE OF THE MANNER IN WHICH
THEY WOULD INTERPRET THE UNMODIFIED SERVICES. IN ELABORATION,
THEY STATED THAT AT MOST, THE VESSELS, AIRCRAFT AND SERVICE
VEHICLES OF THE U.S. FORCES WOULD BE SUBJECT TO CHARGES FOR
SERVICES TO THE EXTENT THAT FOREIGN EMBASSIES IN GREECE RE.
AT OUR PRODDING, THE GREEKS ADMITTED THAT THEY COULD NOT BE MORE

DEFINITIVE SINCE THEY LACKED DETAILED INFORMATION TO DO SO.
NEVERTHELESS, THEY OFFERED AGAIN TO INVOLVE THE FINANCE MINISTRY
TO ANSWER OUR SPECIFIC QUESTIONS, CAUTIONING, HOWEVER,
THAT SUCH INVOLVEMENT WOULD, AT BEST, DELAY CONCLUDING AGREEMENT.

2. AFTER OUR EXHAUSTIVE EXPLANATION, THE GREEKS ACCEPTED THE
POSSIBILITY THAT SOFA, VII, I, COULD BE INTERPRETED TO PERMIT A
CHARGE TO BE LEVIED FOR SERVICES PAID FOR UNDER THE CURRENT
SOUDA AND FUTURE HELLENIKON COST SHARING FORMULAS. THEY ARGUED,
HOWEVER, THAT THE SPECIFICITY OF THOSE FORMULAS BOTH IN DETAIL
AND APPLICABILITY EVIDENCES THEIR EXCLUSIVENESS AND GOES FAR
TOWARDS NEGATING THAT POSSIBILITY. FURTHERMORE, , BY DEFINITION
THE FORMULAS WOULD BE INAPPLICABLE TO VESSELS AND SERVICE
VEHICLES. NEVERTHELESS, THE GREEKS WERE AMENABLE TO WORKING OUR
SOME LANGUAGE THAT WOULD SEAL WHATEVER GAP EXISTS. THE FOLLOWING
ADDITIONAL AND FINAL SENTENCE, SHOWING ALTERNATIVE FORMULATIONS
FOR SERVICES IN PARENTHESES, FOR SOFA, VII, I,
WAS AGREED: "IT IS UNDERSTOOD THAT PAYMENT OF THE ABOVE
CHARGES FOR MATERIALS AND (SPECIFIC SERVICES RENDERED)
(SERVICES RECEIVED) WILL ONLY BE REQUIRED IF SUCH PAYMENT IS NOT
OTHERWISE PROVIDED FOR IN THIS OR ANY OTHER AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE PARTIES HERETO."

3. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THE NEW SENTENCE TO SOFA, VII, 1
ELIMINATES THE CONCERNS EXPRESSED IN PARA 2 AND, TO SOME
EXTENT, PARA 1 OF REFTEL A. WE ARE RELUCTANT TO PRESS THE
GREEKS FURTHER FOR MORE DEFINITIVE YET STILL INDICATIVE INFORMATION
ABOUT THE TYPE OF SERVICES FOR WHICH THEY INTEND TO CHARGE,
IN VIEW OF BOTH THEIR ASSURANCES AND THE POTENTIAL COMPLICATING
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IMPACT OF FINANCE MINISTRY INVOLVEMENT. IF THAT STEP IS TAKEN,
THIS ISSUE WOULD ASSUREDLY REMAIN OPEN BEYOND THIS PHASE.
GREEKS HAVE CLEARLY INDICATED A PREFERENCE FOR FORMULATION A
(REFTEL B) AS OPPOSED TO B. WE SUGGEST ACCEPTANCE OF THEIR
PREFERENCE.

4. ACTION REQUEST: WASHINGTON APPROVAL OF TEXT IN PARA 2
ABOVE AND FORMULATION A IN PARA 2, REFTEL B BY OOB, MAY 19.
KUBISCH

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NNN

Message Attributes

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